



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
**MILITARY DEPARTMENT**  
*Camp Murray • Tacoma, Washington 98430-5000*

May 16, 2006

Dear Emergency Management Colleagues:

I write to inform you of an unprecedented competitive grant opportunity authorized by the Washington State Legislature and Governor Chris Gregoire in March 2006.

The Emergency Management Preparedness Assistance Grant (EMPAG) program provides \$1.6 million in state funds to local and tribal governments, regional agencies, regional incident management teams and private organizations to enhance statewide emergency preparedness through short term, high impact projects.

Recent disasters, including the Southeast Asia tsunami, Gulf Coast region hurricanes and our own Nisqually earthquake underscore how much work still needs to be done to become truly disaster-resistant. Although Washington is a leader in emergency management, we can and must do more to plan, train, exercise, prepare our public officials, educate our citizens and protect vulnerable populations.

I invite eligible applicants to submit project proposals under this competitive grant program and to be wise stewards of all awarded funds. Although this is a one-time state appropriation, we will file an interim report early in the next legislative session documenting the results of this targeted public safety investment.

I join Jim Mullen, Director of our Emergency Management Division, in thanking you for your partnership in Moving Washington Forward. Together, we can make Washington a more disaster-resistant place to live, work and raise our families.

Sincerely,

Timothy J. Lowenberg, Major General  
The Adjutant General  
Director, Washington Military Department